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**TORRINGTON
RURAL DISTRICT
1950.**

REPORTS

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY SURVEYOR**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER, 1950.**

GREAT TORRINGTON :

Printed by COPP & SON, "Osborne Printing Works,"

4, Well Street.

STAFF.

PART TIME OFFICER:

Medical Officer of Health—

DR. E. H. WALKER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

WHOLE TIME OFFICERS:

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor—

F. G. GANE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk—Miss V. MOORE.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
HODGE'S CHAMBERS,
TORRINGTON.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Torrington
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

We have pleasure in presenting our ANNUAL
REPORTS for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

E. H. WALKER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

F. G. GANE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor.

Torrington Rural District,

✻ 1950 ✻

General Statistics.

Area (Acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	79,825
Population (R.G.)	...	...	...	...	...	7,570
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,529
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£21,539
Sum realised by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£88 13s. 5d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births ... Male 27, Female 39, Total 66.

Decrease of 47 on previous year.

Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated Population ... 8'7.

Deaths ... 67.

Death Rate per 1000 of estimated Resident Population ... 8'9.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health.

General Sanitary Conditions of the District.

Housing.

The building programme progresses as sanctioned by the Government. A few smaller houses than the present larger council houses would be welcome for the new poor and elderly.

Midwifery and Nursing.

These are looked after under the National Health Service.



Hospitals.

The district is served by Torrington, Bideford, Barnstaple and Exeter Hospitals. There is still a shortage of beds.

Clinics and Medical Practitioners.

These are provided by the South Western Hospitals Management Board.

Isolation Hospital.

The area is served by the Bideford and District Isolation Hospital.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year the following were reported :

Whooping Cough	8 cases
Scarlet Fever	4 „
Pneumonia	3 „
Tuberculosis	4 „

There is an excellent Tuberculosis Clinic at Barnstaple.

Ambulance Service.

This is adequate.

Laboratory Services.

These are available at Exeter.

Schools.

These are being brought up to date, but the water supplies are often deficient and bad.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

These are being improved constantly.

Venereal Disease.

The local clinic is at Barnstaple.

Infestation.

Very little.

Water and Drainage.

This is poor in quality and quantity. The North Devon Water Board's water is becoming available in some districts shortly.

Some villages are listed for better drainage as funds permit.

Immunisation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out by the County Authorities.

Mental Health and Juvenile Delinquency.

These are looked after by the proper Authorities.

The children appear in good health but there is room for improvement in educating the Mothers to responsibility and also the corrective treatment of the bad old days meted out to the younger children might help in preventing worse crimes later on.

An example of one stops a hundred !

Food Poisoning.

No cases have been reported during the year.



Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS.

Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	16
Dwellings inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	19
Re-inspections under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	27
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	41
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	4
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	3
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	4
Number of rooms disinfected...	...	...	...	...	4
Visits to Factories	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Schools	...	...	..	...	7
Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Water samples	...	...	...	...	18
Building inspections under Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	159
Visits to Council Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	184
Defective drains	...	...	...	...	11
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	37
Plans investigated	...	...	...	...	80
Petroleum inspections	...	...	...	...	15
Dirty houses	...	...	...	...	2
Farm Water supplies	...	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	63

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register 3	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	56	23	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	2	—	—	—	—	2
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938† ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
(b) Others	4	—	—	—	—	4
(iii) Other Premises under the Act‡ (excluding outworkers' premises)						
TOTAL ...		56	23	—	—	

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	6	...	...	...	...	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	7	...	...	...	...	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	8	...	...	...	...	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9	...	...	...	...	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient... ..	10	...	...	...	...	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	11	...	...	...	...	11
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	12	...	...	...	...	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	13	...	...	...	...	13
TOTAL	60	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	60

OUTWORK—(Sections 110 and 111). Nil.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	35
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				71
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	..	...	...	8
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				15
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...		1
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	18

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	16
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A. Proceedings under Section 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(2)		Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—		
	(a)	by owners	...	Nil
	(b)	by local authority in default of owners	...	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	1
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—				
	(a)	by owners	...	...	...	1
	(b)	by local authority in default of owners	...			Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were made | | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance
of Demolition Orders | | Nil |

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|-----|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders
were made | | Nil |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders
were determined, the tenement or room having
been rendered fit | | Nil |

Improvements carried out and nuisances abated:—

External. *No. of houses.*

Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Roofs repaired	...	...	..	...	9
Guttering repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Downspouts repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply laid on into houses			...	...	7
New pumps provided	...	...	...	...	3
Wells cleansed	...	...	...	...	4
Well steinings repaired		...	...	...	3
New lengths drain laid		...	...	...	23
Defective drains repaired		...	...	...	15
New inspection chambers		...	...	...	7
Septic tanks repaired	...	...	...	...	3
New Septic tanks	...	...	...	...	9
New gullies	...	...	..	...	7
New W.C's.	...	...	...	...	9
Water supply laid on to W.C's.	...	...	...	...	9
W.C. cisterns renewed	...	...	...	...	2
New washing accommodation	...	...	...	...	1
Outbuildings repaired	...	...	...	...	3

Internal.

Walls replastered	...	...	...	...	10
Ceilings replastered	...	...	...	...	10
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	5

Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired	...	...	..	...	9
Cooking appliances repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	7
New sinks	...	...	...	...	6
New sculleries	...	...	...	...	1
Baths installed	...	...	...	...	9
Food storage improved		...	...	...	2
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Hot water systems fixed		...	...	...	6

New Housing Accommodation.

Number of new houses erected by local authority	...	12
„ „ new houses erected by private enterprise...		7
„ „ premises converted into dwellings	...	2
„ „ houses converted into two dwellings	...	—
„ „ family units made by conversion of camp buildings into flats	... ..	1

COUNCIL HOUSING PROGRAMME.

12 houses were completed during the year, and at the close of the year another 12 were under construction. 44 houses been completed in the post-war period.

CIVIL BUILDING LICENCES.

The issue of licences is carried out by a small Committee of the Council.

Licences issued in respect of repairs, maintenance or miscellaneous building work to housing.

No. of licences issued.	Value in £
16	3,439

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies of the district continue to give cause for concern.

The first instalment of the North Devon Water Board scheme, which will serve approximately half the district, is well under way and it is hoped that a supply of water will soon be available.

The second instalment of the scheme, which will supply the other half of the district, is very urgently required and it is hoped that it will not be long delayed.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During the year the Ministry of Health held a public inquiry into the proposed sewerage scheme for Winkleigh and by the close of the year permission was given to invite tenders. The Council's Consulting Engineers prepared a scheme for Shebbear which was submitted to the Ministry. The Council hope to consider other schemes during 1951.

RODENT DESTRUCTION.

In October the Council, in conjunction with the Torrington Borough Council, appointed a full time rodent operator, whose duty it is to inspect premises in both districts and carry out such operations as may be necessary.

The following work in the Torrington Rural District was carried out during the year:—

Number of Survey Calls made	..	...	...	86
Number of visits to lay baits on private premises	...	...	...	196
Number of visits to lay baits on business premises	...	...	...	40
Number of visits to lay baits on refuse tips	...	...	...	35
Number of private premises treated	...	...	...	28
Number of business premises treated	...	...	...	6

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Animals intended for human consumption in the district are slaughtered at the Public Abattoir at Bideford, where the carcasses and offals are inspected before allocation.

The following foods were condemned during the year:—

31	12-oz. tins chopped pork.
1	16-oz. tin Xmas Pudding.
2	10½-oz. tins peas.
1	Bottle Raisin Wine.

PETROLEUM LICENCES.

22 petroleum storage licences were issued during the year.

SLAUGHTERING LICENCES.

63 licences were issued during the period.

PLANS.

80 plans were submitted during the year, and apart from modifications, all were approved, except 2.

I attended monthly meetings of both the Technical Committee and the Divisional Planning Committee of the Devon County Council.



